

MINUTES
FOR THE BRIEFING OF THE
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DATE: November 17, 1999
TIME: 9:00 am
PLACE: Board Room
Kalanimoku Bldg.

Chairperson Timothy E. Johns called the meeting of the Commission on Water Resource Management to order at 9:10 a.m.

The following were in attendance:

MEMBERS: Mr. Timothy Johns
Mr. Robert Girald
Mr. David Nobriga
Mr. Herbert Richards, Jr.

EXCUSED: Dr. Bruce Anderson
Brian Nishida

STAFF: Ms. Linnel Nishioka
Mr. Roy Hardy
Mr. Dean Nakano
Mr. Eric Hirano
Mr. Dean Uyeno
Mr. Glenn Bauer
Ms. Lenore Nakama
Mr. Ed Sakoda

Ms. Faith Ching

COUNSEL: Ms. Linden Joesting

OTHERS:

Milton Pavao
Donna Kiyosaki
John Klein
Dawn Wasson
Stephen Kubota
Raylene Lancaster
Owen Matsunaga
Rebecca Alakai
Thomas Young

Ernest Lau
James Anthony
Ken Salva Cruz
Henry Wasson
Ken Boche
George Hiu
Richard Boyd
Eric Kadooka
Henry Curtis

David Craddick
George Kuo
Mark Mararagan
Manabu Tagomori
Martha Black
Jimmy Yamamoto
Gordon Tribble
Amy Luersen
Alan Murakami

OTHERS (Continued):

Cynthia Rezentes	James Manaku, Sr.	Karen Piltz
Kapua Sproat	John Reppun	Rosemary Chu
Felix Limtiaco	Barry Usagawa	Robert Nakata
Kat Brady		

All written testimonies submitted at the meeting are filed in the Commission office and are available for review by interested parties. The items were not taken in the order posted on the agenda.

AGENDA 1**1. Minutes of the October 13, 1999 meeting**

MOTION: (Nobriga/Richards)
To approve the minutes.
UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED.

Minutes of the September 15, 1999 meeting

Deferred.

2. Old Business/Announcements

Deputy Director Linnel Nishioka announced that the December meeting was moved to December 14 (Tuesday) in accommodation to the Waiahole oral arguments that is scheduled for December 15 (Wednesday). The staff just received the order setting oral argument from the Supreme Court. The start time has not been set, but the parameters on how the oral arguments will be done has been set and given the time allotments in the order may run up to 9 hours. Given the Supreme Court's Order, the Commission meeting had to be moved.

Deputy Director Nishioka stated that the Commission has been working with Senator Akaka's office on a bill that is moving through the Senate. It is called the Hawaii Water Reclamation Act. Chairperson Johns submitted testimony to the Senate committee on October 20, 1999 for a hearing of the Senate Energy Committee. This Bill is still pending in the Senate but is anticipated to pass the Senate early next session. Hopefully it will pass through the House. This Bill provides the allowance of the Bureau of Reclamation monies to be used for Hawaii water projects as a source of funding. Funding for a study of agricultural infrastructure in Hawaii will also be provided. This information will be helpful in its preparation of the Hawaii Water Plan.

3. Briefing to the Commission on Water Resource Management on the Statewide Framework for Updating the Hawaii Water Plan

Deputy Director Nishioka stated that this item relates to the statewide framework for updating the various components of the Hawaii Water Plan. The Hawaii Water Plan

consists of 8 different components. She stated that Dean Nakano of staff will be presenting the status of the HWP and a proposed development of a statewide framework for updating the plan. Deputy Director Nishioka also stated that the Honolulu Board of Water Supply is currently undertaking an update to the Oahu Water Use and Development Plan which is an agenda item for today.

To summarize, Deputy Director Nishioka stated that the Hawaii Water Plan was mandated by the State Water Code. In 1990 the Commission adopted the initial Hawaii Water Plan. The Commission's adoption of the 1992 update of the Plan was deferred pending further refinement of the Plan components. The goal of the Hawaii Water Plan is to provide for comprehensive integrated water use planning. Historically, the plan has been fragmented in that the County, private and agricultural, military, state and private developers have developed their own use but without effective integration for all. Deputy Director Nishioka stated that without effective integration, the state and counties would not be able to address the issues of prudent water use which achieves a difficult balance of protecting the resource while allowing reasonable and beneficial use of water into the next millennium. She stated that in certain areas maximum sustainable yields are already being reached or near to it. Only by planning can water needs be effectively addressed.

Before Dean Nakano gave his powerpoint presentation on the Statewide Framework, Chairperson Johns reiterated that this briefing on the framework will not be up for action at this time, but sometime later in the near future.

Mr. Nakano provided brief background information of the component of the Hawaii Water Plan, integrated resource planning relationship to the Hawaii Water Plan. He focused in on specific frame element, summarized and provided concluding remarks.

Commissioner Richards asked when might the framework be adopted.

Deputy Director Nishioka stated that comments should be due by the end of December, 1999. She stated that in January a report to the Commission will be presented, and depending on the level of public comments are received hopefully the staff will come back to the Commission sometime during the first half of next year.

4. Presentation by the City and County, Board of Water Supply on the Status of the Oahu Water Management Plan

Donna Kiyosaki, Deputy Manager of the Board of Water Supply, affirmed their commitment, goals and objectives of the Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) and the Board's water management.

Felix Limtiaco who is the Board's consultant, went over his responsibilities as the consultant and the proposed public and agency participation process.

Barry Usagawa, who is the head of long-range planning section, did a powerpoint presentation on the proposed water planning approach and current status of the Oahu IRP.

Chairperson Johns called a recess at 10:48 am and reconvened at 11:05 am.

Before testimony started, Deputy Director Nishioka stated that the County of Maui has retained a consultant to update their plan and is working with the IRP. They are also working on the Island of Lanai to develop the update of the Plan. The Island of Kauai is working on the facilities plan which is to look at the water needs of the various urban developments. This is in conjunction with the County's update of their general plan. The Island of Hawaii has also done some work with regional water working groups and also to discuss some updates on a regional basis. On some of the neighbor islands, the water systems are not unified like Oahu and the BWS. They tend to be regional systems.

Deputy Director Nishioka also announced that Jim Parham of Louisiana State University will be speaking on the use of GIS related to aquatic resources. This is part of a study that the Division of Aquatic Resources is doing.

TESTIFIERS

Kenneth Boche who serves in a community based group for exploring water alternatives of the Waimea Roundtable stated that it appears that most of the full range of supply and demand issues will be addressed but asked how is this going to happen. He stated that on the neighbor islands communication is not as good as that on Oahu. He stated that he would like to see the following accomplishments: (1) economic analysis of the rate structures; (2) defining the community's future needs; and (3) defining excess supply. He is concerned about public involvement and planning for upcoming projects.

Dr. Jim Anthony of Hawaii Laieikawai Association distributed testimony and also stated some concerns such as climate change that was not specified in the framework and impact on climate change on water. He stated that the presentation by staff and the Board of Water Supply does not address the recharge issue that derives from climate change. He questioned Peter Adler's report and asked if the Commission has ever examined it. He does not feel comfortable about the hiring of Felix Limtiaco as a consultant to the Water Commission as well as the Board of Water Supply. He stated that the public needs to know how much water is available in the various underground systems (aquifers) on Oahu.

Mrs. Dawn Wasson, a kuliana landowner in Laie, stated that serious thoughts and consideration be taken in Dr. Anthony's work as stated in his testimony.

Mr. Stephen Kubota of the Ahupuaa Action Alliance spoke strongly about integrating quality and quantity issues. He feels that by centering on cultural values the Commission would be able to bridge the western idea of water quantity v. water quality as separate issues. Mr. Kubota encouraged the Commission to look beyond the framework to see what other options are in existence. He also stressed the point of environmental education in changing people's attitude of responsibility. The young people need to take responsibility to manage the resource. In summary, he stated that the ahupuaa model does not separate

process from management. It is an integrated resource management system, so process is built into the management.

Martha Black, founder of the People's Water Conference, spoke in support of public participation. Mrs. Black also spoke in support of Dr. Anthony's testimony.

Chairperson Johns adjourned the briefing at 12:26 pm. He thanked everyone for their participation. He stated that the Commission will work with staff to make this process productive .

Respectfully submitted,

FAITH F. CHING
Secretary

APPROVED AS SUBMITTED:

LINNEL T. NISHIOKA
Deputy Director